

# HOUSE BILL 1459

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By: **Delegates Nathan–Pulliam, Benson, Glenn, Oaks, Pena–Melnik, Stukes, Tarrant, and V. Turner**

Introduced and read first time: February 26, 2010

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Analysis and Reduction of Racial**  
3 **and Ethnic Health Care Disparities**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to require  
5 staff of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to work with the Office of  
6 Minority Health and Health Disparities to carry out certain analyses, develop  
7 certain strategies, provide certain guidance, and submit certain reports relating  
8 to racial and ethnic health care disparities among Program enrollees; and  
9 generally relating to analyses and reduction of health care disparities among  
10 enrollees of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Health – General  
13 Section 15–109.3  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2009 Replacement Volume)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Health – General**

19 **15–109.3.**

20 **THE SECRETARY SHALL REQUIRE PROGRAM STAFF TO WORK WITH THE**  
21 **OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES TO:**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(1) ANALYZE BY RACE AND ETHNICITY THE HEALTH CARE**  
2 **UTILIZATION PATTERNS AND QUALITY INDICATORS RELATING TO PROGRAM**  
3 **ENROLLEES;**

4           **(2) DEVELOP STRATEGIES AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO MANAGED**  
5 **CARE ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAM PROVIDERS TO:**

6                   **(I) REDUCE ANY RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH DISPARITIES**  
7 **FOUND IN THE ANALYSIS; AND**

8                   **(II) PROMOTE EQUITY ACROSS HEALTH CARE QUALITY**  
9 **INDICATORS FOR ALL PROGRAM ENROLLEES;**

10           **(3) ANALYZE THE COST OF RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH**  
11 **DISPARITIES AMONG PROGRAM ENROLLEES AND THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF**  
12 **INVESTING IN THE REDUCTION OF THE DISPARITIES; AND**

13           **(4) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2011, AND ON OR BEFORE**  
14 **JANUARY 1 EVERY 2 YEARS THEREAFTER, SUBMIT A JOINT REPORT ON THE**  
15 **EFFORTS TO ANALYZE AND REDUCE RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH DISPARITIES**  
16 **AMONG PROGRAM ENROLLEES TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
17 **§ 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

18           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 July 1, 2010.